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11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

12 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

13 (HONORABLE BARRY T. MOSKOWITZ)

14

15 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ) CASE NO. 08-cr-2254-BTM  
16 Plaintiff, ) ) DATE: August 15, 2008  
17 v. ) ) TIME: 1:30 p.m.  
18 BRIAN HIGGS, ) ) NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND  
19 Defendant. ) ) MOTIONS:  
 ) ) (1) TO COMPEL DISCOVERY;  
 ) ) (2) TO GIVE NOTICE UNDER  
 ) ) FEDERAL RULE OF CRIMINAL  
 ) ) PROCEDURE 12.2; AND  
 ) ) (3) FOR LEAVE TO FILE FURTHER  
 ) ) MOTIONS

20 TO: KAREN P. HEWITT, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, AND  
21 JAMES MELENDRES; ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY:

22 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on August 15, 2008, at 1:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as  
23 counsel may be heard, the defendant, Brian Higgs, by and through his counsel, Gregory T. Murphy  
24 and Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc., will ask this Court to enter an order granting the following  
25 motions.

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## MOTIONS

2 The defendant, Brian Higgs, by and through his attorneys, Gregory Murphy and Federal  
3 Defenders of San Diego, Inc., pursuant to the United States Constitution, the Federal Rules of  
4 Criminal Procedure, and all other applicable statutes, case law and local rules, hereby moves this  
5 Court for an order:

- 6           1) compelling discovery; and  
7           2) for leave to file further motions.

8 Mr. Higgs also hereby gives notice that he intends to present an insanity defense, and that he  
9 will offer expert testimony of a mental disease, defect or condition bearing on the issue of guilt. *See*  
10 Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 12.2(a) and (b).

11 These motions are based upon the instant motions and notice of motions, the attached  
12 statement of facts and memorandum of points and authorities, and all other materials that may come  
13 to this Court's attention at the time of the hearing on these motions.

17 Dated: July 8, 2008  
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**GREGORY MURPHY**  
Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc.  
Attorneys for Mr. Brian Higgs  
[gregory\\_murphy@fd.org](mailto:gregory_murphy@fd.org)

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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

9 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 **(HONORABLE BARRY T. MOSKOWITZ)**

11

12 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ) **CASE NO. 08-cr-2254-BTM**  
13 Plaintiff, )  
14 v. ) **STATEMENT OF FACTS AND  
BRIAN HIGGS ) MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND  
Defendant ) AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF  
\_\_\_\_\_) ) DEFENDANT'S MOTIONS**

17

18 **I.**

19 **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

20 The government charges Mr. Higgs with 20 violations of 8 U.S.C. § 1324.

21 **II.**

22 **MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY**

23 Mr. Higgs requests the following discovery. His request is not limited to those items of  
24 which the prosecutor is aware. It includes all discovery listed below that is in the custody, control,  
25 care, or knowledge of any "closely related investigative [or other] agencies." See United States v.  
Bryan, 868 F.2d 1032 (9th Cir. 1989).

27 1. **The Defendant's Statements.** The government must disclose to Mr. Higgs *all* copies of  
28 any written or recorded statements made by Mr. Higgs; the substance of any statements made by Mr.

1 Higgs that the government intends to offer in evidence at trial; any response by Mr. Higgs to  
2 interrogation; the substance of any oral statements that the government intends to introduce at trial  
3 and any written summaries of Mr. Higgs's oral statements contained in the handwritten notes of the  
4 government agent; any response to any Miranda warnings that may have been given to Mr. Higgs;  
5 and any other statements by Mr. Higgs. Fed. R. Crim. P. 16(a)(1)(A) and (B). The Advisory  
6 Committee Notes and the 1991 amendments to Rule 16 make clear that the government must reveal  
7 all Mr. Higgs's statements, whether oral or written, regardless of whether the government intends  
8 to make any use of those statements.

9 2. Arrest Reports, Notes and Dispatch Tapes. Mr. Higgs also specifically requests that all  
10 arrest reports, notes and dispatch or any other tapes that relate to the circumstances surrounding his  
11 arrest or any questioning, if such reports have not already been produced *in their entirety*, be turned  
12 over to him. This request includes, but is not limited to, any rough notes, records, reports, transcripts  
13 or other documents in which statements of Mr. Higgs or any other discoverable material is contained.  
14 Mr. Higgs includes in this request any redacted portions of the Report of Investigation ("ROI") and  
15 any subsequent ROIs that the case agent or any other agent has written. This is all discoverable  
16 under Fed. R. Crim. P. 16(a)(1)(A) and (B) and Brady v. Maryland, 373 U.S. 83 (1963). See also  
17 Loux v. United States, 389 F.2d 911 (9th Cir. 1968). Arrest reports, investigator's notes, memos  
18 from arresting officers, dispatch tapes, sworn statements, and prosecution reports pertaining to Mr.  
19 Higgs are available under Fed. R. Crim. P. 16(a)(1)(A) and (B), Fed. R. Crim. P. 26.2 and 12(I).  
20 Preservation of rough notes is requested, whether or not the government deems them discoverable.

21 3. Brady Material. Mr. Higgs requests all documents, statements, agents' reports, and  
22 tangible evidence favorable to him on the issue of guilt and/or that affects the credibility of the  
23 government's case. Impeachment and exculpatory evidence both fall within Brady's definition of  
24 evidence favorable to the accused. United States v. Bagley, 473 U.S. 667 (1985); United States v.  
25 Agurs, 427 U.S. 97 (1976).

26 4. Any Information That May Result in a Lower Sentence. As discussed above, any  
27 information that may result in a more favorable sentence must also be disclosed pursuant to Brady,  
28 373 U.S. 83. The government must disclose any cooperation or attempted cooperation by Mr. Higgs,

1 as well as any information that could affect any base offense level or specific offense characteristic  
2 under Chapter Two of the United States Sentencing Commission Guidelines Manual (“Guidelines”).  
3 Also included in this request is any information relevant to a Chapter Three adjustment, a  
4 determination of Mr. Higgs’s criminal history, or any other application of the Guidelines.

5.         The Defendant’s Prior Record. Evidence of a prior record is available under Fed. R.  
6 Crim. P. 16(a)(1)(D). Mr. Higgs specifically requests a complete copy of any criminal record.

7.         Any Proposed 404(b) Evidence. Evidence of prior similar acts is discoverable under Fed.  
8 R. Crim. P. 16(a)(1)(D) and Fed. R. Evid. 404(b) and 609. In addition, under Fed. R. Evid. 404(b),  
9 “upon request of the accused, the prosecution . . . shall provide reasonable notice in advance of trial  
10 . . . of the general nature . . .” of any evidence the government proposes to introduce under Fed. R.  
11 Evid. 404(b) at trial. Sufficient notice requires the government to “articulate *precisely* the evidential  
12 hypothesis by which a fact of consequence may be inferred from the other acts evidence.” United  
13 States v. Mehrmanesh, 689 F.2d 822, 830 (9th Cir. 1982) (emphasis added; internal citations  
14 omitted); see also United States v. Brooke, 4 F.3d 1480, 1483 (9th Cir. 1993) (reaffirming  
15 Mehrmanesh and reversing convictions).

16         This includes any “TECS” records (records of prior border crossings) that the government  
17 intends to introduce at trial, whether in its case-in-chief, impeachment, or rebuttal. Although there  
18 is nothing intrinsically improper about prior border crossings, they are nonetheless subject to 404(b),  
19 as they are “other acts” evidence that the government must produce before trial. United States v.  
20 Vega, 188 F.3d 1150, 1154-1155 (9th Cir. 1999). Mr. Higgs requests that such notice be given three  
21 weeks before trial to give the defense time to adequately investigate and prepare for trial.

22.         Evidence Seized. Evidence seized as a result of any search, either warrantless or with a  
23 warrant, is discoverable under Fed. R. Crim. P. 16(a)(1)(E).

24.         Request for Preservation of Evidence. The defense specifically requests that all dispatch  
25 tapes or any other physical evidence that may be destroyed, lost, or otherwise put out of the  
26 possession, custody, or care of the government and that relate to the arrest or the events leading to  
27 the arrest in this case be preserved. This request includes, but is not limited to vehicle involved in  
28 the case, Mr. Higgs’s personal effects, and any evidence seized from Mr. Higgs or any third party.

1 This request also includes any material or percipient witnesses who might be deported or otherwise  
2 likely to become unavailable (e.g. undocumented aliens and transients). Mr. Higgs requests that the  
3 prosecutor be ordered to question all the agencies and individuals involved in the prosecution and  
4 investigation of this case to determine if such evidence exists, and if it does exist, to inform those  
5 parties to preserve any such evidence.

6.       Henthorn Material. Mr. Higgs requests that the Assistant United States Attorney  
7 (“AUSA”) assigned to this case oversee (not personally conduct) a review of all personnel files of  
8 each agent involved in the present case for impeachment material. See Kyles v. Whitley, 514 U.S.  
9 437, 438 (1995) (holding that “the individual prosecutor has a duty to learn of any favorable  
10 evidence known to the others acting on the government’s behalf in the case, including the police”);  
11 United States v. Henthorn, 931 F.2d 29 (9th Cir. 1991). This request includes, but is not limited to,  
12 any complaints filed (by a member of the public, by another agent, or any other person) against the  
13 agent, whether or not the investigating authority has taken any action, as well as any matter for which  
14 a disciplinary review was undertaken, whether or not any disciplinary action was ultimately  
15 recommended. Mr. Higgs further requests production of any such information at least one week  
16 prior to the motion hearing and two weeks prior to trial. If the prosecutor is uncertain whether  
17 certain information should be disclosed pursuant to this request, this information should be produced  
18 to the Court in advance of the motion hearing and the trial for an in camera inspection.

19.       Tangible Objects. Mr. Higgs requests the opportunity to inspect, copy, and test, as  
20 necessary, all other documents and tangible objects, including photographs, books, papers,  
21 documents, alleged narcotics, fingerprint analyses, vehicles, or copies of portions thereof, that are  
22 material to the defense or intended for use in the government’s case-in-chief or were obtained from  
23 or belong to Mr. Higgs. Fed. R. Crim. P. 16(a)(1)(E). Specifically, Mr. Higgs requests **color copies**  
24 of all photographs in the government’s possession of the alleged narcotics and the vehicle in which  
25 the narcotics were found.

26.       Expert Witnesses. Mr. Higgs requests the name, qualifications, and a written summary  
27 of the testimony of any person that the government intends to call as an expert witness during its case  
28 in chief. Fed. R. Crim. P. 16(a)(1)(G). This summary should include a description of the witness’

1 opinion(s), as well as the bases and the reasons for the opinion(s). See United States v. Duvall, 272  
2 F.3d 825 (7th Cir. 2001) (finding that government's written expert notice did not adequately  
3 summarize or describe police detective's testimony in drug prosecution where notice provided only  
4 a list of the general subject matters to be covered and failed to identify what opinion the expert  
5 would offer on those subjects). This request includes, but is not limited to, disclosure of the  
6 qualifications of any government witness who will testify that he understands and/or speaks Spanish  
7 or any other foreign language that may have been used during the course of an interview with  
8 Ms. Higgs or any other witness. Mr. Higgs requests the notice of expert testimony be provided at  
9 a minimum of three weeks prior to trial so that the defense can properly prepare to address and  
10 respond to this testimony, including obtaining its own expert and/or investigating the opinions,  
11 credentials of the government's expert and obtain a hearing in advance of trial to determine the  
12 admissibility of qualifications of any expert. See Kumho v. Carmichael Tire Co., 526 U.S. 137, 119  
13 S.Ct. 1167, 1176 (1999) (trial judge is "gatekeeper" and must determine, reliability and relevancy  
14 of expert testimony and such determinations may require "special briefing or other proceedings")

15 12. Impeachment evidence. Mr. Higgs requests any evidence that any prospective  
16 government witness has engaged in any criminal act whether or not resulting in a conviction and  
17 whether any witness has made a statement favorable to Mr. Higgs. See Fed. R. Evid. 608, 609 and  
18 613. Such evidence is discoverable under Brady, 373 U.S. 83. See United States v. Strifler, 851  
19 F.2d 1197 (9th Cir. 1988) (witness' prior record); Thomas v. United States, 343 F.2d 49 (9th Cir.  
20 1965) (evidence that detracts from a witness' credibility).

21 13. Evidence of Criminal Investigation of Any Government Witness. Mr. Higgs requests any  
22 evidence that any prospective witness is under investigation by federal, state or local authorities for  
23 any criminal conduct. United States v. Chitty, 760 F.2d 425 (2d Cir. 1985).

24 14. Evidence of Bias or Motive to Lie. Mr. Higgs requests evidence that any prospective  
25 government witness is biased or prejudiced against Mr. Higgs, or has a motive to falsify or distort  
26 his or her testimony. Pennsylvania v. Ritchie, 480 U.S. 39 (1987); Strifler, 851 F.2d 1197.

27 15. Evidence Affecting Perception, Recollection, Ability to Communicate, or Veracity.  
28 Ms. Flores requests any evidence, including any medical or psychiatric report or evaluation, tending

1 to show that any prospective witness's ability to perceive, remember, communicate, or tell the truth  
2 is impaired; and any evidence that a witness has ever used narcotics or other controlled substance,  
3 or has ever been an alcoholic. Strifler, 851 F.2d 1197; Chavis v. North Carolina, 637 F.2d 213, 224  
4 (4th Cir. 1980).

5 16. Witness Addresses. Mr. Higgs requests the name and last known address of each  
6 prospective government witness. See United States v. Napue, 834 F.2d 1311 (7th Cir. 1987); United  
7 States v. Tucker, 716 F.2d 576 (9th Cir. 1983) (failure to interview government witnesses by counsel  
8 is ineffective); United States v. Cook, 608 F.2d 1175, 1181 (9th Cir. 1979) (defense has equal right  
9 to talk to witnesses). Mr. Higgs also requests the name and last known address of every witness to  
10 the crime or crimes charged (or any of the overt acts committed in furtherance thereof) who will *not*  
11 be called as a government witness. United States v. Cadet, 727 F.2d 1453 (9th Cir. 1984).

12 17. Names of Witnesses Favorable to the Defendant. Mr. Higgs requests the name of any  
13 witness who made any arguably favorable statement concerning Mr. Higgs or who could not identify  
14 him or who was unsure of his identity or participation in the crime charged. Jackson v. Wainwright,  
15 390 F.2d 288 (5th Cir. 1968); Chavis, 637 F.2d at 223; Jones v. Jago, 575 F.2d 1164, 1168 (6th  
16 Cir. 1978); Hudson v. Blackburn, 601 F.2d 785 (5th Cir. 1979), cert. denied, 444 U.S. 1086 (1980).

17 18. Statements Relevant to the Defense. Mr. Higgs requests disclosure of any statement that  
18 may be "relevant to any possible defense or contention" that he might assert. United States v.  
19 Bailleaux, 685 F.2d 1105 (9th Cir. 1982). This includes grand jury transcripts that are relevant to  
20 the defense motion to dismiss the indictment.

21 19. Jencks Act Material. Mr. Higgs requests production in advance of the motion hearing  
22 or trial of all material, including dispatch tapes, that the government must produce pursuant to the  
23 Jencks Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3500 and Fed. R. Crim. P. 26.2. A verbal acknowledgment that "rough"  
24 notes constitute an accurate account of the witness' interview is sufficient for the report or notes to  
25 qualify as a statement under section 3500(e)(1). Campbell v. United States, 373 U.S. 487, 490-92  
26 (1963); see also United States v. Boshell, 952 F.2d 1101 (9th Cir. 1991) (holding that interview notes  
27 constitutes Jencks material when an agent reviews notes with the subject of the interview); see also  
28 United States v. Riley, 189 F.3d 802, 806-808 (9th Cir. 1999). Advance production will avoid the

1 possibility of delay of the motion hearing or trial to allow Mr. Higgs to investigate the Jencks  
2 material. Mr. Higgs requests pre-trial disclosure of such statements to avoid unnecessary recesses  
3 and delays and to allow defense counsel to prepare for, and use properly any Jencks statements  
4 during cross-examination.0

5 20.       Giglio Information. Pursuant to Giglio v. United States, 405 U.S. 150 (1972), Mr. Higgs  
6 requests all statements and/or promises, expressed or implied, made to any government witnesses,  
7 in exchange for their testimony in this case, and all other information that could arguably be used  
8 for the impeachment of any government witnesses.

9 21.       Agreements Between the Government and Witnesses. Mr. Higgs requests discovery  
10 regarding any express or implicit promise, understanding, offer of immunity, of past, present, or  
11 future compensation, or any other kind of agreement or understanding, including any implicit  
12 understanding relating to criminal or civil income tax, forfeiture or fine liability, between any  
13 prospective government witness and the government (federal, state and/or local). This request also  
14 includes any discussion with a potential witness about or advice concerning any immigration  
15 benefits, any contemplated prosecution, or any possible plea bargain, even if no bargain was made  
16 or the advice not followed.

17 22.       Informants and Cooperating Witnesses. Mr. Higgs requests disclosure of the names and  
18 addresses of all informants or cooperating witnesses used or to be used in this case, and in particular,  
19 disclosure of any informant who was a percipient witness in this case or otherwise participated in  
20 the crime charged against Mr. Higgs. The government must disclose the informant's identity and  
21 location, as well as disclose the existence of any other percipient witness unknown or unknowable  
22 to the defense. Roviaro v. United States, 353 U.S. 52, 61-62 (1957). The government must disclose  
23 any information derived from informants that exculpates or tends to exculpate Mr. Higgs.

24 23.       Bias by Informants or Cooperating Witnesses. Mr. Higgs requests disclosure of any  
25 information indicating bias on the part of any informant or cooperating witness. Giglio, 405 U.S.  
26 24. Such information would include what, if any, inducements, favors, payments or threats were  
27 made to the witness to secure cooperation with the authorities.

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1 25. Personnel Records of Government Officers Involved in the Arrest. Mr. Higgs requests  
2 all citizen complaints and other related internal affairs documents involving any of the immigration  
3 officers or other law enforcement officers who were involved in the investigation, arrest and  
4 interrogation of Mr. Higgs. See Pitchess v. Superior Court, 11 Cal. 3d 531, 539 (1974). Because  
5 of the sensitive nature of these documents, defense counsel will be unable to procure them from any  
6 other source.

7 26. Training of Relevant Law Enforcement Officers. Mr. Higgs requests copies of all written  
8 videotaped or otherwise recorded policies or training instructions or manuals issued by all law  
9 enforcement agencies involved in the case (United States Customs Service, Border Patrol, INS,  
10 Department of Homeland Security, etc.) to their employees regarding: (a) the handling of vehicles  
11 suspected to be transporting contraband across the port of entry; (b) the referral to secondary  
12 inspection of persons within those vehicles; © the detention of individuals within those vehicles;  
13 (d) the search of those vehicles and the occupants of those vehicles, including the proper means of  
14 obtaining consent to search and what constitutes consent to search; (e) the informing of suspects of  
15 their Constitutional rights; (f) the questioning of suspects and witnesses. Mr. Higgs also requests  
16 all written or otherwise attainable information regarding the training of Customs agents at ports of  
17 entry in California to detect or discover contraband in vehicles entering the United States, including  
18 any training offered to Border Patrol, INS, or officers of Homeland Security Department, by the DEA  
19 or other law enforcement agencies or individuals.

20 27. Performance Goals and Policy Awards. Mr. Higgs requests disclosure of information  
21 regarding standards used for measuring, compensating or reprimanding the conduct of all law  
22 enforcement officers involved in the case (Customs, Border Patrol, INS, etc.) to the extent such  
23 information relates to the detection of contraband. This request specifically includes information  
24 concerning performance goals, policy awards, and the standards used by Customs for commending,  
25 demoting, or promoting agents for their performance at the port of entry and their success or failure  
26 to detect illegal narcotics in general.

27 28. Reports of Scientific Tests or Examinations. Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 16(a)(1)(F),  
28 Mr. Higgs requests the reports of all tests and examinations conducted upon the evidence in this

1 case, including, but not limited to, any fingerprint testing done upon any evidence seized in this case,  
2 that is within the possession, custody, or control of the government, the existence of which is known,  
3 or by the exercise of due diligence may become known, to the attorney for the government, and that  
4 are material to the preparation of the defense or are intended for use by the government as evidence  
5 in chief at the trial.

6 29. **Brady Information.** The defendant requests all documents, statements, agents' reports,  
7 and tangible evidence favorable to the defendant on the issue of guilt and/or which affects the  
8 credibility of the government's case. Under Brady v. Maryland, 373 U.S. 83 (1963), impeachment  
9 as well as exculpatory evidence falls within the definition of evidence favorable to the accused.  
10 United States v. Bagley, 473 U.S. 667 (1985); United States v. Agurs, 427 U.S. 97 (1976).

11 30. Any Proposed 404(b) Evidence. The government must produce evidence of prior similar  
12 acts under Fed. R. Crim. P. 16(a)(1) and Fed. R. Evid. 404(b) and any prior convictions which would  
13 be used to impeach as noted in Fed. R. Crim. P. 609. In addition, under Fed. R. Evid. 404(b), “upon  
14 request of the accused, the prosecution . . . shall provide reasonable notice in advance of trial . . . of  
15 the general nature” of any evidence the government proposes to introduce under Fed. R. Evid. 404(b)  
16 at trial. The defendant requests notice two weeks before trial to give the defense time to investigate  
17 and prepare for trial.

18 31. Residual Request. The defendant intends by this discovery motion to invoke his rights  
19 to discovery to the fullest extent possible under the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and the  
20 Constitution and laws of the United States.

III.

**NOTICE UNDER FEDERAL RULE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE RULE 12.2**

23 Mr. Higgs gives notice of his intention to introduce expert testimony of a mental disease,  
24 defect or condition bearing on the issue of guilt. See Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 12.2(b).  
25 Mr. Higgs has not yet retained an expert and a more detailed notice is therefore not possible at this  
26 time. It is, however, his present intention to present a mental defense--including an insanity defense-  
27 if this cases goes to trial.

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1                          IV.

2                          **MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE FURTHER MOTIONS**

3                          Mr. Higgs has not yet viewed the government's physical evidence against him.

4                          Additionally, defense counsel has not yet met with the material witness in this case. As new  
5 information surfaces – via discovery provided by government, defense investigation, or an order  
6 of this court – the defense may need to file further motions or to supplement existing motions.

7                          Accordingly, Mr. Higgs requests leave to file further motions at a later date.

8                          V.

9                          **CONCLUSION**

10                        For the reasons stated, Mr. Higgs requests this Court grant his motions.

11                        Respectfully submitted,

12                        /s/ Gregory Murphy

13                        Dated: July 8, 2008

14                        GREGORY MURPHY  
Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc.  
Attorneys for Mr. Higgs  
gregory\_murphy@fd.org

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1 Counsel for Defendant certifies that the foregoing pleading is true and accurate to the best of his  
2 information and belief, and that a copy of the foregoing document has been served this day upon:

3 U.S. Attorney CR  
4 Efile.dkt.gc2@usdoj.gov; and

5 Linda A. King  
6 laking@N2.net,vbm\_5562@yahoo.com

7  
8 Respectfully submitted,

DATED: July 8, 2008

9 /s/ Gregory T. Murphy  
10 **GREGORY T. MURPHY**  
11 Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc.  
12 Attorneys for Brian Keith Higgs

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